normal radioactivity level in sea water is about 15 Bq/litre. There is, therefore, no question of any danger to the people or the environment on account of this incident.

(c) The design of all our atomic power plants follows the highest safety standards to preclude leak of radioactivity to the environment. The radiation levels in the environment surrounding the plants are subjected to continuous monitoring by environmental Survey Laboratories to keep a watch on the release of radio-activity. The release of effluents from the operating power plants in the country are governed by the permissible limits prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board which are as per international standards. The actual releases of effluents from nuclear power plants are monitored by independent Environmental Survey Laboratories and are kept within the safe limits.

Tourists Abducted in J & K

488. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether five foreign tourists have been abducted from Pahalgam, J & K State, in July, 1995;

(b) if so, under what circumstances these foreign tourists were abducted and what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any demand from the militants for the release of these foreign tourists and if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what efforts have so far been made to trace and get these foreign tourists rescued; and

(e) what security measures were taken or are proposed to be taken by Government for the safety and protection of tourists visiting Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Six foreign nationals (2 Americans, 2 British, 1 German and 1 Norweigan) were kidnapped by militants of 'Al-Faran' Outfit from Pahalgam, District Anantnag on 4-7-95 and 8-7-95. Out of them, one American national escaped from the militants' custody while the rest are still captive.

(c) The Al-Faran group has demanded the release of 22 arrested militants and some foreign mercenaries. They included one militant who is already on bail.

(d) A heavy contingent of security forces has been deployed to trace the kidnapped foreigners taking, however, all necessary precautions to ensure that the safety of the hostages is not jeopardised.

(e) The areas frequented by the tourists are being provided area security cover. Patrolling in the sensitive areas as also tourist resorts in the valley has been intensified and pickets manned by security forces have been established.

Enhancement in the Contribution rates of CGHS Beneficiaries

489. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2711 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th March, 1995 and state:

(a) the percentage of total annual cost of the scheme, the contributions from beneficiaries constituted before and after revision and raising of the rates; and

(b) whether Government have also raised the maximum amount of the cost of pacemakers and hearing aids provided to beneficiaries on proper medical advice,

side by side with anhancement in contribution rates, if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) As the revision of rate became applicable from 1.4.94 onward, the comparative percentage is not readily available, because the CGHS contributions are deducted directly from the salaries of Central Government employees by the concerned Ministries/ departments and the appropriation Accounts for 1994-95 is yet to be prepared and finalised by the office of Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure

(b) The rates of pacemakers and hearing aids have not been revised as they were fixed only recently.

Representations on Companies Amendment Bill

490. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations on the companies Amendment Bill pending before Parliament;

(b) what are the names of the organisations and individuals that have sent the representations and what are their suggestions in brief; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Department of Company Affairs has received large number of representations from Professional Institutes, Chambers of Commerce, Voluntary organisations and individuals giving suggestions for further changes in the Bill. The efforts required to be put in preparing details of such exhaustive information will not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

However, these suggestions have been looked into by the Government, they mainly cover issues like Investors' Protection in view of the rapid growth of the capital market, introudction of non-voting shares, facility of buy-back of shares for companies, deletion of redundant provisions and ensuring better management of companies etc. Some of these suggestions have been found useful. Considering the large number of such suggestions, the Govt. proposes to withdraw the Companies Bill, 1993 and introduce simultaneously a fresh Bill in due course of time.

HIV Cases in Delhi

491. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2685 and 635 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th March, 1995 and 16th March, 1995 respectively and state:

(a) the number of HIV cases detected in Delhi and what is the number of AIDS patients in Delhi as on date, in comparison with the last three years; and

(b) the number of HIV infection cases acquired by blood transfusion taking places in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise, and the steps taken to eliminate the causes that spread HIV amongst the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) As per the information received from the Delhi National Capital Territory for the period ending 30th June, 1995, of the 207522 samples screened, 978 have been reproted to be HIV positive. 82 AIDS cases have been reported from Delhi during the same period. In 1992, 29 AIDS cases were reported which rose to 36 in 1993 and 53 in 1994 respectively.